

CHICHIOGUSA - EXTRA STORY ONE

EVEN WHEN I
FINALLY RETURN
HOME, I CAN'T SET
FOOT IN THE
HOUSE.



BECAUSE
OF THIS,



MY SON HAS
AN EXTREME
SHYNESS OF
STRANGERS.

AND I MEAN,
AM I REALLY...



ON TOP OF
THAT, I DIDN'T
COME HOME
FOR BON OR
NEW YEAR'S.

WELL, AFTER
ALL, I WASN'T
EVEN HERE
WHEN HE WAS
BORN.

OF COURSE HE'S
NOT GOING TO
THINK OF ME AS
HIS FATHER.



POKE

YOUR FATHER?

AM I...

TO SAY IT
CLEARLY...

GIGGLE

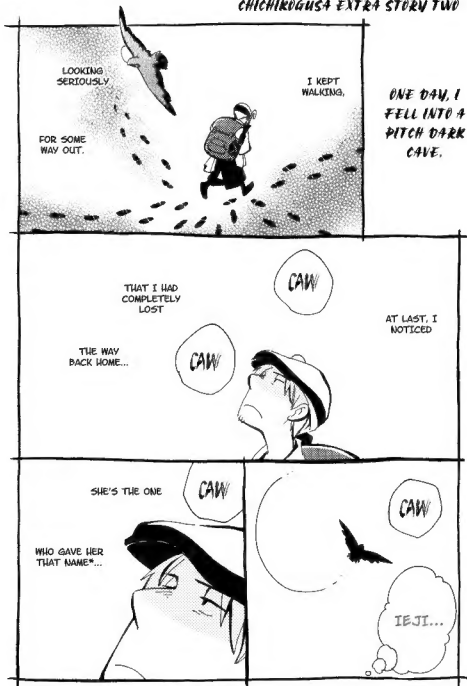
YOU'RE REALLY
CRYING, KUH...?

THAT MUST
BE WHY

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND MY
OWN FEELINGS.

EXTRA STORY ONE: END

CHICHIROGUSA EXTRA STORY TWO



*FOOTNOTE: THE KANJI USED TO WRITE IEJI ARE 家路,
OR "HOME" FOLLOWED BY "RETURN"

SHE'S GONE
NOW.

BUT,

CAW!

CAW!

SO THAT I
WOULDN'T LOSE
MY WAY ON MY
JOURNEYS,

AND WOULD
RETURN HOME
PROPERLY NO
MATTER WHERE
I WAS...

PAPA!

HEY!

FOR ME TO
BE RUNNING
AWAY.

THIS ISN'T
THE TIME

AHH...
I KNOW IT,
THOUGH.

HA HA HA

EXTRA STORY TWO - END

CHICHIRUGUSA EXTRA STORY THREE

AND HASN'T SPOKEN
A DEEP FOR TWO
YEARS UNDER THE
GUISE OF WORK.



HIS FATHER LEFT
THE BOY WITH ME,
HIS AUNT,

MY
NEPHEW
HAS NO
MOTHER.

EVERY DAY...
EVERY SINGLE DAY...
HE TAKES FLOWERS TO
HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE



ONCE, I ASKED THE
CHILD, "WHY DON'T YOU
BECOME AUNT'S SON?"

BUT HE NEVER
RESPONDED.

WITHOUT
SO MUCH AS
SEEING ME.



EVEN THOUGH IT'S
A WOMAN'S KIMONO,
IT'S QUITE PLAIN.



WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE,
THE CHILD'S MOTHER
OFTEN WORE THIS.

THAT STUPID BROTHER OF MINE
MUST HAVE WANTED TO LOSE
THIS LONELY CHILD, TOO, WHEN
HE GAVE HIM INTO MY HOUSE.



DON'T MOVE
ABOUT!

HEY,

...



CHICHIRUGUSA EXTRA STORY FOUR

COMPLETELY.

I WAS
BEATEN BY
MY SISTER.

I HAVE BEEN
RUNNING AWAY FROM
MY WIFE'S DEATH,
AND FROM MY SON.

FOR THE PAST
TWO YEARS,

TAP
TAP

IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN BETTER IF
I'D ENDED UP

DEAD...



EXTRA STORY FOUR - END

CHICHIKUGUSA EXTRA STORY FIVE

IS A BIG
CRY-BABY,

WHO'S
TOTALLY
SPOILED.



LITTLE
SHIROU...

JUST AS I
THOUGHT,
THEY REALLY
RESEMBLE ONE
ANOTHER.

SAYS TORA WAS
THE SAME WAY
WHEN HE WAS A
KID, ALWAYS
CRYING.

MY
SISTER-
IN-LAW



TORA'S
BROTHER
VISITS

AND PLAYS
WITH
SHIROU.

SOMETIMES,



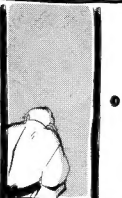


SO SHIROU
ALWAYS HAS A
GOOD TIME.



HE'S VERY
GOOD WITH
CHILDREN,

BUT I...

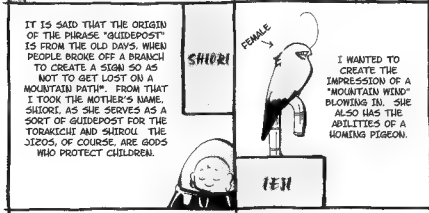
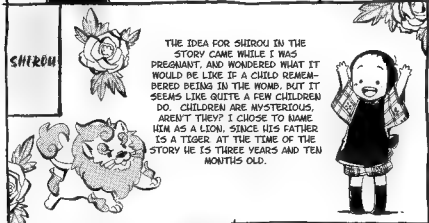
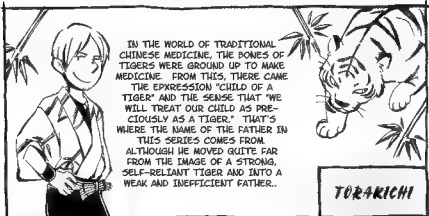


WANT TO SEE HIS
FATHER PLAYING AND
GETTING ALONG WITH
HIM LIKE THAT, TOO.



EXTRA STORY FIVE - END

"I USED UP ALL THE PAGES"
EXTRAS TO READ WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED
WITH THE VOLUME AND HAVE FREE TIME.



*GUIDEPOST, ETC. - THE WORD FOR GUIDEPOST IN JAPANESE IS SHIORI, WHICH IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "BREAK" AND "BRANCH."

CHI-CHIKO-GUSA

CHECHIKOGUSA (FATHER AND CHILD GRASS)
FAMILY ASTERACEAE
SIMILAR TO HAHAKOGUSA (MOTHER AND CHILD GRASS)

THIS LITTLE PLANT POPS UP EVERYWHERE, BUT IT'S SUBDUED AND NOT THAT WELL-KNOWN. IT SEEMS THE NAME COMES FROM HAHAKOGUSA. IN CHINA, THOUGH, IT HAS A MUCH COOLER NAME OF 天青地白, WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR HEAVEN, BLUE/GREEN, EARTH, AND WHITE. GENERALLY, IT'S A MEDICINAL HERB. IN THE LANGUAGE OF PLANTS, IT MEANS "A FATHER'S LOVE." HAHAKOGUSA, ON THE OTHER HAND, MEANS "ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU."



MEDICINAL HERBS

THE MODEL FOR MY MEDICINE SELLERS, "TOMOYAMA MEDICINES," IS WELL-KNOWN AND OFTEN USED AS THE BASIS FOR PERIOD DRAMAS.

AT A TIME WHEN EFFECTIVE MEDICINE HAD YET TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT JAPAN, THEY CARRIED IT TO EVERYONE IN AN ATTEMPT TO SUPPORT THEIR GOOD HEALTH.

IT'S EVEN SAID THAT SOME BECAME TRADERS ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAD FAMILY ALL OVER JAPAN. FROM THAT ALONE, IT SEEMS THEY QUICKLY BECAME WELCOMED BY AND RELIED UPON BY A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE. IT WAS A WARM-HEARTED BUSINESS.



MEDICINE SELLERS

ALL OF THE PLANTS USED IN THIS STORY ARE STILL USED AS MEDICINE TODAY. I HAVE SEEN THEM BLOOMING CLOSE BY EVERY TIME I GO OUT. ALL THESE PLANTS GROWING AND BLOOMING AROUND US WHILE WE IGNORE THEM WERE TREATED IMPORTANTLY BY PEOPLE LONG AGO. IT'S MUCH MORE INTERESTING IF WE PAY ATTENTION A LITTLE BIT, TOO.



HISTORICAL SETTING

THINKING, "AN ERA WHEN MEDICINE SELLERS FLOURISHED," OR "AN ERA WHEN IT WAS FORGIVABLE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD HELP YOU SELL THINGS." I WANTED TO GIVE THIS FANTASY A REALISTIC SETTING. PLEASE EXCUSE ANY IMPOSIBILITIES OR VIOLATIONS OF JAPAN'S PHARMACEUTICAL LAW.

THERE'S STILL A LITTLE LEFT! ➔

SORRY THERE'S ONLY WRITING.



STORY ONE -
"MORNING SICKNESS"
MORNING SICKNESS VARIES
FROM PERSON TO PERSON AT
ITS WORST, IT CAN LEAD TO
HOSPITALIZATION .. (VIKES!)



STORY TWO -
"NIGHT CRYING"
MANY PARENTS ARE
TROUBLED BY THIS.
THERE ARE MANY
CAUSES, AND NO REAL
FOOLPROOF CURE.
(VIKES!)



STORY THREE -
"MUGWORT"

MEDICINE. FOOD.
GUNPOWDER. DYES
WELL. NEEDLESS TO
SAY, IT'S A PLANT
WITH MANY DIFFER-
ENT USES



STORY FOUR -
"SILVER LEAF"
CAN OFTEN BE SEEN
GROWING IN THICK
CLUMPS IN PARKS OR
THROUGHOUT TOWNS



STORY FIVE -
"MASTER PERFUMER"

THESE WERE PEOPLE WHO
WALKED AROUND SHOWING
OFF THEIR MEDICINE OR
PERFUMES AND TRYING TO
SELL THEM. (IT'S NOT
SLANG FROM 2CHAN*.)



STORY SIX -
"SMELLING SACHET"

WHEN A WHOLE LOT OF CINNAMON
AND CLOVES ARE PUT IN A SMALL
BAG, IT GIVES OFF QUITE A STRONG
SMELL. AS A RESULT, THE WHOLE
ROOM WILL HAVE A SPICY FEEL.



OMAKE - END



*MASTER PERFUMER - IN JAPANESE, ALSO THE WORD
FOR CHARLATAN, OR FRAUDULENT SALESMAN.

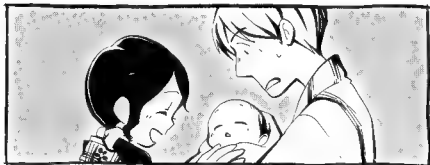
*2CHAN - A POPULAR JAPANESE ANIME/GAMING/MANGA/ETC
SUBCULTURE BULLETIN BOARD, WHICH APPARENTLY USES THIS
WORD (HASHI) TO MEAN "GUY" (GATSBY)

CHICHIKOGUSA - AFTERWORD

HELLO! PLEASD TO MEET YOU, I'M TAGAWA MI. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING MY FIRST PUBLISHED COMIC VOLUME, "CHICHIKOGUSA." DID YOU FIND IT ENJOYABLE...?

THIS STORY IS ONE I'VE HAD IN MY HEAD SINCE I WAS TEN YEARS OLD AND HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL. IT'S AAAAAALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS A PARENT MYSELF, GIVING BIRTH TO MY OWN DAUGHTER. THINKING ABOUT IT, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT I WAS ONLY ABLE TO WRITE THIS STORY BECAUSE I AM NOW A PARENT



I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO MY PUBLISHERS FOR LETTING ME PUT FORM TO THIS STORY AND SENDING IT OUT, AND OF COURSE MORE THAN ANYTHING, TO ALL OF MY READERS! ANYWAY! I HOPE WITH ALL MY HEART TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SO. THANK YOU VERY VERY MUCH FOR READING ALL OF THIS!

TAGAWA MI

TO MY EVER-PATIENT FAMILY: I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WRITE THIS STORY WITHOUT YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH!



ちちこぐさ ①

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■著者

田川ミ

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* I REALLY LIKE
DRAWING CHILDREN,
SO I'M HAPPY TO BE
DRAWING THIS MANGA.
ALTHOUGH IT DOES
MAKE ME FEEL KINDA
LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED
MAN...

—TAGAWA MI*



田
川
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MAG
Garden

BLADE
COMICS



【入子草】

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A COUNTRY SISTER

UM... WHILE
YOU WERE
OVER THERE,
WERE YOU
OKAY

I'M SORRY I
LEFT YOU
ALONE FOR
SUCH A LONG
TIME

MM7

MEDICINE SELLING GAME

I FROM
MEDISHIN
NANAKSA*
STORE!

THANKA' FOR
BIZNESS!

*LJF# 7HF 9~7RE+~9AB~t~ ~~~~~~ *R~G~LAIAK~SAIA

LEAD

ALN TIE S
S:AKI
ISNT SHE?

SHIO
LOTTA
WAKY-
WAKY!

SO WHAT
IS MY
USUAL
MEDICINE
FOR...?

HUH?
UH...
THANKS...

I BROUGHT
SAME
MEDISHIN
AS ALWAYS!

HERE

REFLECT
HIGHLIGHTS

SIS, I'M
SORRY!

FOR
ATHLETE
FOOT!

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
THAAAT?!

SORRY...
PLEASE, YOUR
PAPA'S SO
SORRY FOR
THAT TIME...!

M 20
CORRY

ГЕДН'

IEJI IS A GIRL

PERFUME SELLER PLAY

EVEN THOUGH
I'M A GIRL.



MY NAME
IS IEJI

GOT JUST
THE "THING
FOR YOU,
CUSTOMER!"



CUSTOMER
CUSTOMER!

I HATE
GETTING
DRESSED UP



THIS IZZA
LEGENDY
INCENSE'LL
DEFNITELY
SURPRISE
YOU..

OOH, HOW
CUTE! WHAT
IS IT, WHAT
IS IT?!



I'LL PUT UP
WITH THIS
ONLY, BECAUSE
IT'S PART OF
HIS GAME



"IF YOU USE IT
REGULARLY, YOUR
BODY ODOR WILL
GO AWAY AND
YOU'LL SMELL
NICE!" IS MORE
OR LESS WHAT HE
MEANS

GOOD
SMELL
INCENSE!



IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
HAPPY
ABOUT IT
YOU GET
ME?!



HEY YOU
TURNED
OUT
FETT
WATS,
DIDNTCHA!



SO I
REALLY
SMELL
THAT
BAD



CHAPTER 1 MEDICINE SELLING PARENT AND CHILD

CHAPTER 2 ✧ TRAVEL AND NIGHT-CRYING

CHAPTER 3 THINKING OF YOU AND NOSEBLEEDS

CHAPTER 4 THE BEACH AND THE PROMISE

CHAPTER 5 ✧ MEDDLING AT BON

CHAPTER 6 ✧ A FATHER'S LOVE

Chichikogusa

Chapter 6
BY TAGAWA MI

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A
STORY
OF GROWTH
BETWEEN A
FATHER AND
SON WHO
MUST TEST
THEIR
STRENGTH
WHEN SUD-
DENLY
THRUST TO-
GETHER.

HEY.

IF YOU TEASE HIM,
HE'LL NEVER ACCEPT
YOU.

WE'LL,

TRY NOT TO
MAKE SHIROU
CRY, OKAY?

HEY.

HEY NOW,
SHIROI...

SINCE YOU'RE NEVER
USUALLY AROUND, YOU
SHOULD BE SPEND-
ING THIS TIME GET-
TING CLOSER TO
EACH OTHER

OH, BE
QUIET.

OF COURSE HE'S
GONNA CRY IF YOU'RE
NOT HERE!

... IS WHAT YOU
TOLD ME, BUT YOU
DIDN'T COME BACK

SO SEE YOU
THEN, "PAPA!"

I'LL BE BACK
THIS EVENING,

CHICHIROGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

SHIORI,

WHY DID
YOU .

HAVE TO DIE AND
LEAVE ME WITH
SHIORI LIKE
THIS?





APRON TEXT NOTE: THE CHARACTER ON THE BOTTOM RIGHT PANEL ON TORAKICHI'S APRON IS A HIGHLY STYLIZED VERSION OF THE KANJIS 薬 (KISURI), MEANING MEDICINE. IT SERVES AS THE LOGO FOR THE SHOP WHERE HE WORKS.

THE TEXT ON THE BOTTOM LEFT PANEL ON HIS APRON, IS THE NAME OF HIS SHOP, HANAKISABA.

*JIZO WAS A BUDDHIST MONK AND BOONIESATVA. HE IS ONE OF THE PROTECTIVE DEITIES OF TRAVELERS, AND IS TRADITIONALLY BELIEVED TO BE THE PROTECTOR OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIED YOUNG. JIZO STATUES ARE COMMON IN JAPAN, ESPECIALLY ALONG ROAD-SIDES, AND ARE OFTEN ADORNED WITH BLOSSOMS OR TOYS, AND MADE TO LOOK CHILD-LIKE. (SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA)



AH, YOU'RE GIVING FLOWERS TO THE JIZO* STATUES, HUM?

WHAT ARE YOU...
HUM?

OH, SHIROUHH,

BACKPACK SIGN NOTE: THE SAME STYLIZED MEDICINE LOGO AS THE ONE ON HIS APRON.



LITTLE IDIOT WHO'S EXCESSIVELY POLITE TO ABSOLUTELY FREAKIN' EVERYTHING.



HONESTLY.

YOU REALLY ARE SUCH A KIND...



CLENCH

YOU KNOW PAPA HAS TO HURRY AHEAD AND DO HIS WORK, DON'TCHA?

NOOOO!



OH!

YOU
FOUND SOME
JAPANESE
VALERIAN

THE ROOTS
ARE GOOD FOR
HELPING PEOPLE
WHO SUFFER
FROM ANXIETY OR
HYSTERIA, AND..



LAVERIAN.

HLH?

I'VE BEEN LATE
TOO OFTEN
BECAUSE OF
YOU! IF YOU
KEEP ME WAIT-
ING AROUND ANY
LONGER...



YOU
KNOW,



CHOMP

I'M A
TRAVELING
MEDICINE
SELLER



AND
WHO THE
HECK'S
ANXIETY
ARE YOU
TRYIN'TA
CURE
ANYWAY?!

WHY
ARE YOU
TRYIN'TA
MEDICATE
PEOPLE?!

SHOCK



NOW
C'MON!

YANK

IF YOU'D JUST
HURRY UP, WE
WOULDN'T
NEED TO TALK
ABOUT THIS!







IT SEEMS
LIKE HE'S
HEADED OUR
WAY.



THANKS
FOR YOUR
CONTINUED
BUSINESS.

I'M FROM
NANAKUSAYA'S
MEDICINE SHOP*.

SORRY FOR
BEING SO
LATE.

NNNNNNNNNN!



MASTER,
I CAN SEE
THE
MEDICINE
SELLER.



HEY
THERE,
TORAKICHI!

WE'VE BEEN
WAITING! SORRY
FOR CALLING YOU
OUT HERE TO THE
STICKS ALL THE...



TINE...

*IN THE NAME OF THE MEDICINE SHOP
TORAKICHI WORKS AT (NANAKUSAYA) TRANSLATES
LITERALLY AS SOMETHING LIKE "HERBS AND
GREENS AND GRASS SHOP," BUT IT SOUNDS
A LOT LESS WEIRD IN JAPANESE.



NO, NO,
NOT AT ALL.

WE'RE SORRY
FOR CALLING
YOU OUT IN
SUCH A HURRY.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.

WE'RE WAY OUT
IN THE MOUNTAINS,
SO IT MUST HAVE
BEEN HARD TO GET
HERE, RIGHT?

I'D PLANNED ON
BEING HERE
SOONER, BUT...



FOR FREQUENT CUS-
TOMERS LIKE YOU, I'LL
THROW IN A DISCOUNT.

WHETHER THE
DESTINATION'S
OUT IN THE
MOUNTAINS OR
HELL ITSELF,

IT'S OUR JOB TO GO
WHEREVER MEDICINE
IS NEEDED.

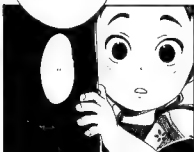


?!

ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU COULD USE
A HAND YOURSELF
THIS TIME. .

YOU'RE ALWAYS
HELPING US OUT.







GLARE

WHAT EXACTLY ABOUT THIS DESERVES CONGRATULATIONS?!



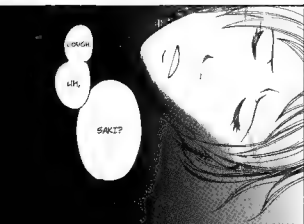
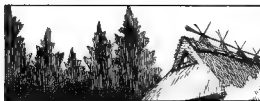


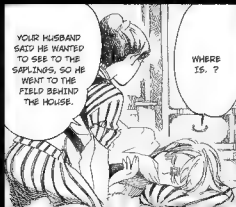














WELL, JUST
STAY GONE,
YOU IDIOT!

MISTRESS,
PLEASE LIE
DOWN AND
REST!



OUT DOING
WORK INSTEAD
OF SEEING TO
YOUR SICK
WIFE EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
THIS EARLY!



?!



SCREAMING AND
SHOUTING LIKE
THIS EVEN
THOUGH THERE'S
A POOR SICK
WOMAN IN THE
NEXT ROOM, I
OUGHTA...



HEY!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WHOSE
VOICE IS
THAT?!







HE KNOWS
A LOTTA
MEDISHIN!

GRIN

GRIN

MY PAPA'S
GREAT!



NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
I DON'T FEEL
NEARLY AS BAD
AS EARLIER

OH.

YOU'RE
ASKING IF I
FEEL OKAY?

HEH
HEH.



JUST
REMEMBERED

UHH...

AW
CRUD!

SNIFF

SORRY
SORRY, JUST
JOKING!



RUITLE

HIS WORK'S
REAL HARD

HEY, HEY.

SNIFF

MY PAPA...

GULD



WELL...

HE MAY BE
GREAT WHEN IT
COMES TO
SELLING MEDICINE,

BUT HE LEFT
YOU ALL ALONE,
SO I'M NOT
SURE ABOUT
HIS PARENTING.

AH!



SINCE YOU'RE
WIV ME.

SNIFFLE







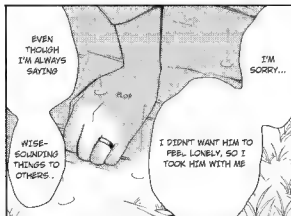




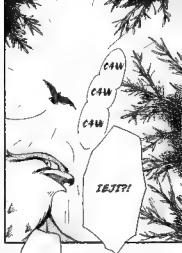
















HOW IN
THE HELL
DID YOU
EVEN GET
UP THERE?

UP
THERE

I WAS
WAITING
FOR YOU.



YOU'RE
NOT
HURT.

SHITOW!

ARE YOU
OKAY?!



YOU KNOW.

HUH?

BUT...

EVEN BY
MYSELF, I
DIDN'T CRY.

I WAS
HELPING
PAPA.



YOU
IDIOT!

IF IEJI
HADN'T
FOUND
YOU...

HMPH.



DRIP

DRIP

NEXT
TIME...

I CAN GO
WITH YOU,
RIGHT, PAPA?

RIGHT?



SO.

I'M SORRY..

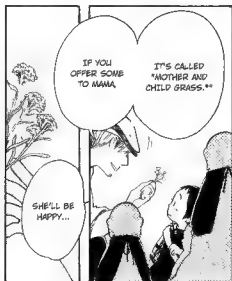
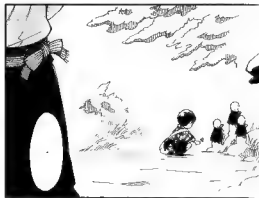
I'M SORRY, SHIRO...

I'M SORRY.

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN LONELY,

I'M
SORRY.





T/N: THE NAME OF THIS PLANT IN JAPANESE IS HAHAKOGUSA, OR "MOTHER AND CHILD GRASS." IT'S IN THE SAME GENUS AS THE PLANT THE MANGA TAKES ITS NAME FROM, CHICHIKOGUSA, OR "FATHER AND CHILD GRASS."

YOUR...

HA
HA
HA

IS
LAUGHING
PROPERLY.

NO.
OUR
SHIROU

ALTHOUGH
THEY'RE
STILL
AWKWARD,
THE
FATHER
AND SON
GREW
SLIGHTLY
CLOSER.

◀◀To be continued

2/15





CHICHIRUGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



SIGNS ABOVE OWNER'S HEAD: FAST ACTING PILL AND AMAZING RELIEF FOR HEADACHES AND TOOTHACHES!



RIGHT-HAND SIGN: NAUAKUSABA



SIGN ABOVE THE DOOR SAYS SOMETHING LIKE "AFTER YOU USE US, YOU'LL TRUST US," THIS SLOGAN WAS ACTUALLY USED BY MEDICINE-SELLING SHOPS IN YONAHARA CITY, THE HISTORICAL LOCATION ON WHICH CHIKOKUGUSA IS PRESUMABLY BASED FOR MORE ON YONAHARA CITY AND HISTORICAL MEDICINE-SELLERS, SEE [HTTP://BIT.LY/7BN4XGO](http://bit.ly/7BN4XGO)





WHY DON'T WE
ASK SOME OF
YOUR COL-
LEAGUES TO
HELP OUT A
LITTLE?

IT MUST BE TERRIBLE
FOR YOU TRAVELING
WITH THAT LITTLE
ONE. AND ON TOP OF
THAT, YOU COVER
QUITS A LOT OF
GROUND TOO.



NO.

I'M
DOING
OKAY.

I KNOW
YOU'VE BEEN
VISITING
YOUR REGU-
LARS, BUT
YOU AREN'T
FALLING
BEHIND ON
YOUR SCHED-
ULE, ARE
YOU?



WE SINGLE
TYPES HAVE
A LOT OF
STUFF TO DO
TOO, YOU
KNOW?!

BUT I
ALREADY HAVE
MY PRETTY
LITTLE HANDS
FULL WITH MY
WORK.

WELL, I
WAAAAA
TO HELP.

PAT

I'M SOOOO
SORRY!



HOW ABOUT WE
JUST SEND THIS
WIDOWER AND
HIS BRAT
STRAIGHT BACK
OUT INTO THE
COUNTRYSIDE?

WHOA
WHAT A
PAIN



I'M SORRY
FOR CAUSING
YOU TROUBLE.

BOSS...



I'D HOPE YOU
CAN ALL HELP
EACH OTHER
OUT AT LEAST
IN THAT SITU-
ATION...

I WOULDN'T
ASK THE TWO
OF YOU FOR
ANYTHING
EVEN IF I
WAS DYING,
ANYWAY.

SIGNAL: AMAZING RELIEF
FOR HEADACHES AND
TOOTHACHES!



THERE'S JUST NO
WAY I CAN ASK
THEM FOR HELP.



BUT,
TORAKICHI,

WELL, THAT'S
OKAY WITH
ME I GUESS.

DON'T DRIVE
YOURSELF
INTO A
CORNER.

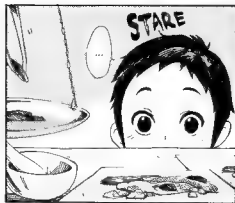


ANYWAY,
I'M OKAY.

EVEN WITH
SHIROU FOLLOW-
ING ME AROUND, I
CAN DO MY WORK
PROPERLY.

LOOK THE
OTHER WAY FOR
JUST A LITTLE
BIT LONGER?

CAN YOU



STARE



NOBODY'S GOING TO
HAVE CONFIDENCE IN
YOUR MEDICINE IF
YOUR FACE LOOKS
LIKE YOU'RE SICK.

DAZZLE



FOOTNOTE- "DRAGON BONE" (FOSSILIZED ANIMAL BONES)
IS USED IN CHINESE MEDICINE.









EEEE!

SO WHAT DO
YOU SAY,
CUSTOMER?



THIS IS THE
LAST BIT OF
WORK FOR
PAPA TODAY,

御宿

LANTERN SIGN: INN



COME
HERE A
MINUTE!

HEY,
SHIROU!

THERE'S
SOMEONE IN
THE OTHER
ROOM, SO
KEEP IT DOWN,
OKAY!



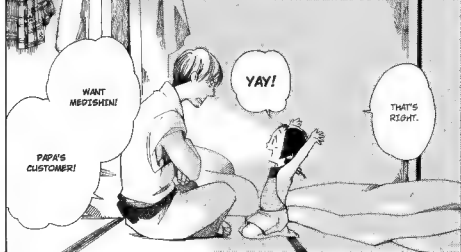
SHI...

SHIROU



I'M...

CUSTOMER?

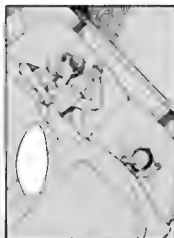
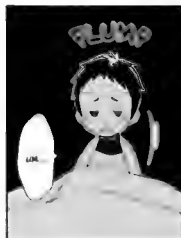


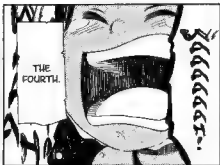
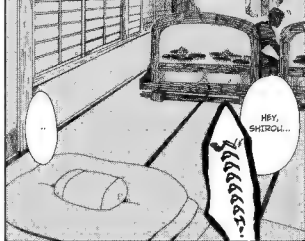


TM: HE MEANS "IEJI," THE HAWK TORAKICHI CARRIES WITH HIM





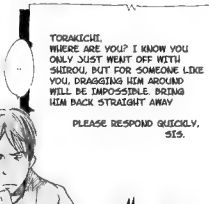














**WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO TELL ME?!**

**WHY DON'T
YOU JUST TRY
SAYING WHAT
YOU MEANT?**

HUH?!



AAAAAH,

**RUB
RUB**

**DAMN
IT!**



**WHAT IS
WITH YOU?!**
**EVERY
NIGHT,**

**YOU JUST
CRY AND
CRY!**



WA

WAH,



~~~~~



FOR HIM
TO BE
CRYING
LIKE THIS
EVERY
NIGHT, IT
HAS TO BE
SOME-
THING I'VE
DONE,
BUT



WHAT
HAP-
PENED ?



I...

OKAY?

YOU CAN STAY
HERE WITH
AUNTIE.



YOUR PAPA HAS
TO GO OFF AND
WORK NOW.



IT'S OKAY,
RIGHT
SHIROU?

WELL, THEN,
I'LL BE OFF,
SIS ..

YEAH...



SNIFE

I FELT SURE
HE DIDN'T
NEED ME AT
ALL



I WAS
NEVER
THERE FOR
SHIROU.



ALWAYS
LEFT THE
HOUSE
BECAUSE
OF WORK













IT IS DURING THIS
TIME OF SLEEP-
LESSNESS THAT I
AM ABLE TO WRITE
MY WORKS.



IF THE INFORMATION
IS TOO NEW,
OR TOO STRONG
OF A STIMULUS,
THEN YOU CANNOT
SLEEP WELL.

THE HUMAN BRAIN
USES THE TIME
WHEN YOU ARE
ASLEEP TO SORT
THROUGH NEW
INFORMATION.

HOWEVER,



AFTER I'VE COM-
PLETED SOME-
THING, I SLEEP
LIKE A LOG FOR
DAYS.

IT IS ONLY WHEN
I AM WRITING
THAT I NEED MY
BRAIN'S FULL
POWER.

SO... YOU
DON'T SLEEP
AT ALL?

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT.



OH,
RIGHT.

MEDICINE-
SELLING
MAN!



AH,
HEY

I SIMPLY WANTED
TO MAKE A FEW
BRIEF REMARKS
TO YOU.

NOW I MUST BE
OFF. I STILL
HAVE MORE
WORK TO DO.

I PRAY YOU
EXCUSE ME!



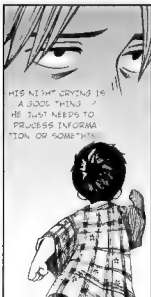
IT'S SURELY JUST WHEN
YOU'RE ON YOUR TRAVELS
THAT THE AMOUNT OF IN-
FORMATION HE RECEIVES
IS TOO MUCH TO PROCESS!

I DOUBT THAT YOUR
SON THERE CRIES
LIKE THIS ALL THE
TIME, RIGHT?

HIS NIGHT
CRYING IS A
GOOD THING!

YOU JUST NEED
TO GIVE HIM
LOTS OF TIME TO
SORT IT ALL OUT!







ONE
MORE
THING.

UGH. ANOTHER
LETTER FROM
MY SISTER.
Huh?



LIFT



THAT
HURTS!

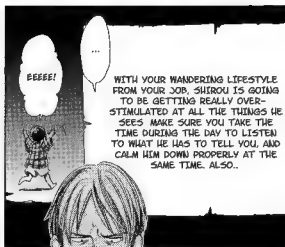
WHAT ARE
YOU STILL UP
FOR?

HM..?



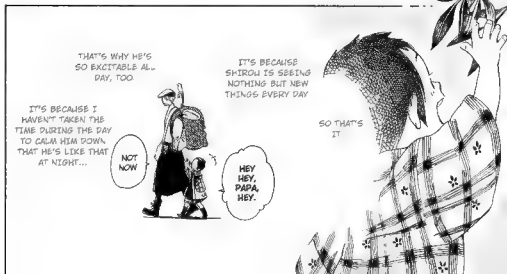
SHE GOT
IT RIGHT
ON THE
NOSE,
Huh?

JUST THE
SAME THING
AS THAT GUY
JUST NOW
SAID..



EEEEEE!

WITH YOUR WANDERING LIFESTYLE
FROM YOUR JOB, SHIROU IS GOING
TO BE GETTING REALLY OVER-
STIMULATED AT ALL THE THINGS HE
SEES. MAKE SURE YOU TAKE THE
TIME DURING THE DAY TO LISTEN
TO WHAT HE HAS TO TELL YOU, AND
CALM HIM DOWN PROPERLY AT THE
SAME TIME. ALSO..



THAT'S WHY HE'S
SO EXCITABLE ALL
DAY, TOO.

IT'S BECAUSE
SHIROU IS SEEING
NOTHING BUT NEW
THINGS EVERY DAY

IT'S BECAUSE I
HAVEN'T TAKEN THE
TIME DURING THE DAY
TO CALM HIM DOWN
THAT HE'S LIKE THAT
AT NIGHT...

NOT
NOW

HEY
HEY,
PAPA,
HEY.

SO THAT'S
IT



I'M GOING TO
LISTEN TO EVERY-
THING YOU HAVE TO
SAY FROM NOW ON,

YOU
KNOW,

SO...

TRAVELING
AROUND EVERY
DAY LIKE THIS
MIGHT MAKE IT
HARD FOR YOU
TO RELAX,



IF I LISTEN
MORE TO WHAT
HE HAS TO
SAY

SHIROU...



I, I,

WHEN I GET BIG
I'M GONNA SELL
MEDICINE!

OH, HEY,
HEY,

PAPA LISTEN!

AND, AND, GONNA
ALWAYS GO WITH
YOU, PAPA!



IT'S OKAY,
RIGHT?!



YOU TELL YOUR PAPA
MORE ABOUT IT, HUH...?

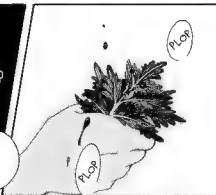
WHY DON'T

IT'S ALSO A
PRECIOUS TIME,
BECAUSE HE
VISITS.



SPRING.

IT'S THE
SEASON WHEN
JAPANESE MUG-
WORT BLOOMS



CHICHIKOGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

IT'S ALREADY
THE SEASON FOR
HYDRANGEAS

AND HE STILL
HASN'T COME
BY.



CHAPTER 3:
THINKING OF YOU AND NOSEBLEEDS



MIWA HAD A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL, HUH?



OH,

OUTSIDE BANNER: KUCHIMOCCHI

ENTRY PANELS: FIKU

SHOP SIGN: FIKU CONFECTIONERS
("FIKU" LITERALLY MEANS "GOOD FORTUNE." THIS IS A STORE THAT SELLS TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SWEETS SUCH AS MOCHI OR RED BEAN BUNS.)



UH, WHAT IS IT?

I GUESS SINCE I CAME SO LATE THIS YEAR, I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO EAT WITH HER.

WELL, IT'S TOO BAD. I PROBABLY WON'T NEED TO DELIVER ANY MORE MEDICINE TO HER ONCE SHE'S A BRIDE.



THAT'S GREAT. GOOD FOR HER!

AND THE OTHER PARTY KNOWS ABOUT HER CONSTITUTION, RIGHT?

HANGING BANNER: KUCHIMOCCHI* (STICKY RICE CAKES MADE FROM KUDZU STARCH, AND TYPICALLY SERVED TOPPED WITH BLACK SUGAR SYRUP AND ROASTED SOYBEAN FLOUR.)

HANGING BANNER: MINADZUKI* (TRIANGLES OF SWEET RICE GELLY TOPPED WITH AGEJIKI BEANS, TYPICALLY EATEN IN THE SIXTH LUNAR MONTH, ALSO CALLED MINADZUKI.)



WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT EITHER

RIDGET

UH...



THAT THERE'S SOMEONE SHE'S HAD HER HEART SET ON EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD..

OH? I DON'T REMEMBER ANYONE LIKE THAT.



SHE SAID SHE WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL.

WHATT!

OH!



SIGUS: KUGUMOCHI



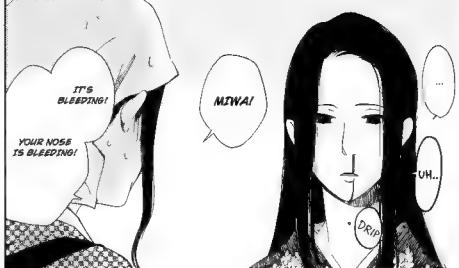






DROP

DROP





WAAH! THE
BLOODY-FACED
GIRL IS COMING
THIS WAY!

HA
HA
HA

AH!
MIWA'S NOSE
IS BLEEDING
AGAIN!

RUN
AWAY!
RUN
AWAY!

EEEEEW!

EIGHT
YEARS
EARLIER



OH, SORRY
ABOUT THAT,
KIDS.

WHAT
THE
HECK'S
WITH
THIS
BIRD!

SCUFF



CAN!

WAH!

DASH

OW!



YOU
OKAY?

...



YOU'LL HAVE
TO FORGIVE
HER.

IT'S IN THE
NATURE OF
BIRDS LIKE HER
TO ATTACK WHEN-
EVER THEY SEE
MEAN-SPIRITED
THINGS.



OH ?







OH, IT
STOPPED
ALREADY?

THE
BLOOD.

EVEN THOUGH WE'VE
MET SO MANY TIMES
OVER THE YEARS,

I DON'T KNOW A
THING ABOUT HIM.

HM.



HEY,
MIWA.

IT'S FINE IF
IT'S JUST ~~ME~~
YOU'RE WITH.

WHEN YOUR
FEELINGS GO UP
AND DOWN, THE
NOSEBLEEDS
COME AND GO
TOO.

FWIP

AH, IT MUST
BE BECAUSE
YOU GOT
PRETTY
COLD, HUH?

WELL, I CAN
UNDERSTAND.



BUT IF YOU
DON'T SMILE A
BIT MORE, THE
GUY YOU LIKE
MIGHT START TO
DISLIKE YOU .

I KNOW YOU'VE
ALWAYS HAD A HARD
TIME SHOWING
PEOPLE YOUR FEEL-
INGS, EVEN WHEN
YOU WERE YOUNG,

BUT WHEN YOU'RE
IN FRONT OF
SOMEONE WHO'S
IMPORTANT TO YOU,
YOU SHOULD SHOW
OFF YOUR EXPRES-
SIONS MORE.



FOOTNOTE: LITERALLY "GRASS MOCHI,"
MADE USING JAPANESE MUGWORT MIXED
IN WITH THE POUNDED RICE CAKES



THIS IS A
SPECIAL
MEDICINE
JUST FOR
YOU

I MADE A LOT,
SO DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

[GAIYOH]
JAPANESE
MUGWORT



•EFFECTIVE FOR:
ASTHMA; STRONG STOMACH,
HEMORRHOIDS
TO STOP BLEEDING FOR
NOSEBLEEDS AND SO ON.



HERE. IT HELPS
STOP THINGS
LIKE NOSE-
BLEEDS.



YOU'LL
COME
AGAIN?

OF
COURSE.

I'LL MAKE
SOME MORE
AND BRING IT
NEXT TIME I
COME, TOO.

IF YOU RUN
OUT SOONER,
WRITE AND LET
ME KNOW.

IT'LL BE HARD
ON YOU, BUT IF
YOU TAKE THIS
MEDICINE YOUR
CONDITION
SHOULD IMPROVE.

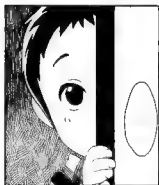


UNTIL THEN, I'LL
STAY HERE AND
WAIT, MAKING
KUSA MOCHI.

THEN I'LL SEE
YOU AGAIN NEXT
SPRING, WHEN
THE MUGWORT
IS BLOOMING.



REALLY?!





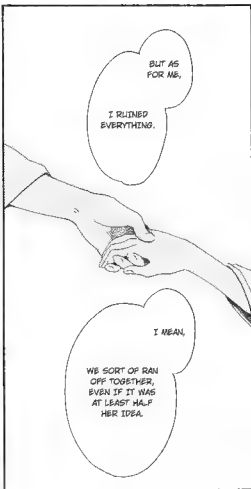
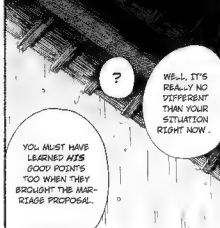
BLACK TEXT ON BAG: MEDICINE
WHITE TEXT ON BAG: HANAKUSABA













AND THE FEW
TIMES I WAS
HOME, AL- WE
DID WAS
FIGHT.

I COMPLETELY
ABANDONED HER
ALL BY HERSELF,
EVERY DAY.

HAPPINESS...
YEAH, RIGHT.



BUT IT'S
TOO LATE.

I'LL NEVER GET
ANOTHER CHANCE
TO SEE HER
SMILE NOW.

I WISH...

I COULD HAVE MADE
HER LAUGH MORE
OFTEN WHILE SHE
WAS ALIVE.



IF SHE HAD
MARRIED INTO A
PROPER HOUSE,

MAYBE HE
WOULD HAVE
BEEN BORN
INTO A HAPPY
FAMILY,

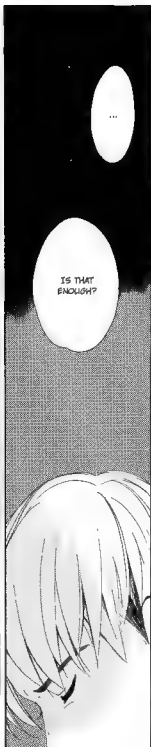
AND LIVED
TOGETHER
WITH HIS
MOTHER AND
FATHER HIS
WHOLE LIFE...

MY SON..



EVEN NOW,
I FIND
MYSELF
THINKING

I HAVE TO GO
THERE RIGHT
AWAY, BUT...





THERE'S
SO MUCH
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
HIM.

YOU'RE A
WEIRD
ONE..



BUT THAT HE'S LOST
HER FOREVER,

THAT HE HAD
SOMEONE HE
LOVED WHEN HE
WASN'T AROUND.

AND THAT NOW IT'S
JUST HIS OWN PAIN
HE'S HOLDING
CLOSE

THAT HE LOVED
THAT PERSON'S
SMILE



DO I HAVE THE MEDICINE IT
WOULD TAKE TO HELP HIM HEAL
THAT PAIN?



NO

IT'S NOT ME RIGHT
NOW WHO CAN HELP
HIM WITH THAT



BUT RIGHT
NOW, MORE
THAN STAYING
BY HIS SIDE,
I .

IT HURTS.









IT'S FINE.

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE AT
LEAST
HEARD IT
OUT...

WHAT?
YOU'VE RE-
FUSED THE
MARRIAGE
PROPOSAL?!

WHY?!

TOP SIGN: FUKU CONFECTIONERS
DOOR SIGN: FUKU



AND...

EVEN IF HE
DOESN'T FEEL
LIKE HE'S
SINGLE NOW.

THAT MIGHT
CHANGE AS
MORE TIME
GOES BY...

BUT THE
PERSON YOU
HAVE FEEL-
INGS FOR IS
ALREADY...

HE DIDN'T REALLY
COMPLETELY TURN
ME DOWN YET.



YOU'LL GIVE ME
YOUR SUPPORT,
WON'T YOU?

SINCE I'VE
KEPT UP MY
FEELINGS FOR EIGHT
YEARS,

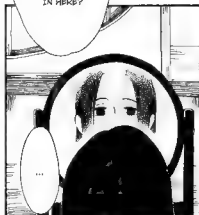
IT DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT
TO JUST

GIVE
UP.



HONESTLY,
THIS
GIRL...

BY THE WAY,
WHAT EXACTLY
ARE YOU UP TO
IN HERE?



...



RUSTLE

TO WAIT HERE AND
MAKE KUSA MOCHI
FOR ONE MORE
YEAR AT LEAST.

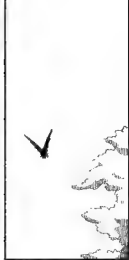
HE SAID HE'D
COME BACK NEXT
YEAR DURING THE
JAPANESE MUG-
WORT SEASON,
AFTER ALL...



I WANT



PRACTICING
MY SMILE.





DEAR
TORA-
KICHI,

RIGHT?

BECAUSE I
CAME FROM
YOU AND MAMA,

SHIYO
KNOWS IT

WH

EVEN IF YOU
FOUGHT A LOT
YOU GOT ALONG
GOOD A LOT
TOO RIGHT?



HOW COME YOU
KNOW ABOUT STUFF
LIKE THAT?!

HA HA
HA!

I HOPE
YOU CAN
RECOVER
FROM YOUR
WOUND
SOON.

IF YOU
DO,

PLEASE
LISTEN TO
WHAT I HAVE
TO SAY,
NEXT TIME.

MIWA.

PLAYING AT THE
BEACH THEY LOOKED
LIKE THEY WERE
HAVING FUN..

IN A DREAM,

I SAW MY WIFE,
WHO'S BEEN DEAD
FOR TWO YEARS,

AND OUR SON



CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]
AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

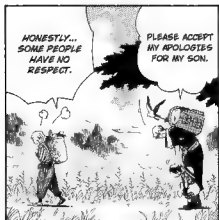
HEY! WHADDA
YA THINK
YOU'RE DOIN'?!

AH, IT'S
HOT...

BZZ
ZZZ

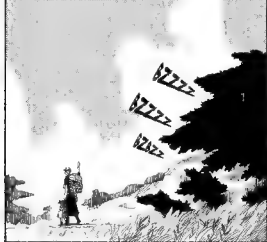
BZZ-
ZZZ

CHAPTER 4:
THE BEACH AND
THE PROMISE



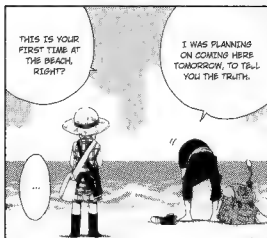








WHY DON'T WE TAKE
A BREAK FOR A BIT...



THIS IS YOUR
FIRST TIME AT
THE BEACH,
RIGHT?

I WAS PLANNING
ON COMING HERE
TOMORROW, TO TELL
YOU THE TRUTH.



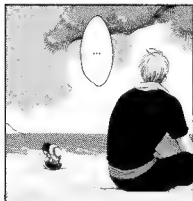
GASP

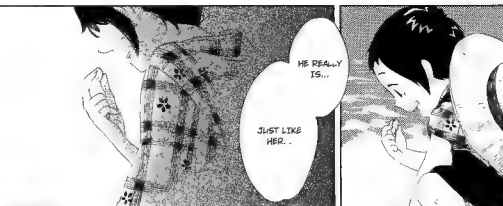


TAKE OFF
YOUR SHOES
AND COME
OVER HERE.

IT'S FUN.









WE'RE NOT
GOING BACK
UNTIL I FIND AN
OYSTER WITH A
PEARL IN IT!



EVEN WHEN I'M
ON HOLIDAY I
GOTTA GO AL-
OVER.



MY BROTHER KANOE
SAID YOU CAN FIND
THEM AL- OVER THE
PLACE ON THE SHORE
LIKE THIS.

OH I WILL.

HE WAS TEASING
YOU! HE KNOWS
YOU'LL FALL FOR
WHATEVER
ANYONE TELLS
YOU!



LIKE
YOU'RE
GONNA
FIND ONE
OF THOSE.

FOOTNOTE: AT THE TIME OF THE STORY IN THE LATE 1800S, LOANWORDS LIKE ROMAN (ROMANCE) AND MARON (CHESTNUT, FROM THE FRENCH) WERE JUST MAKING THEIR WAY INTO JAPANESE. SINCE THESE TWO WORDS USE THE SAME SOUNDS, SHIORI MIXED THEM UP.

FOOTNOTE:
"TARO"
IS THE
GENERIC
BOY'S
NAME
ENDING.



AH, HE
KICKED
AGAIN!



IT'S ROMANCE.
DON'T USE DIFFICULT
WORDS IF YOU'RE
GONNA SCREW 'EM
UP, IDIOT!

TOO BAD
HUH, SHIO-
TARO?

YOUR
PAPA DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
CHESTNUT*
AT ALL.



BEING IN SUCH
A CLOSED-OFF
FAMILY OF THREE.

HE WON'T
BE ALONE...

YOU THINK
SHIO-TARO WILL
BE HAPPY?



"SHIO-TARO."

WELL, HE'S
"SHIORI'S
CHILD"

SO...

IT'S CUTE,
RIGHT?



HEY...

WHAT THE
HECK'S UP
WITH THAT
"SHIO-TARO"
STUFF YOU'VE
BEEN SAYING
SINCE EAR-
LIER?

HUH?



YOU'RE TALK-
ING LIKE
YOU'RE SO
SMART,

THEN
WHAT?!

BUT I BET
YOU HAVEN'T
EVEN
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT,
HUH?!



HAHPH. THEN
WE'LL JUST USE
"SHIO-HIME"!!

PRINCESS... A
NAME LIKE THAT
WOULD EMBAR-
RASS ANYONE.

HUHH? YOU'RE
SERIOUSLY
PRETTY BAD
AT COMING UP
WITH NAMES.

IS HE MOMO-
TARO* OR SOME-
THING? AND WHAT
ARE YOU GONNA
DO IF IT'S A
GIRL?

FOOTNOTES: MOMOTARO (PEACH BOY)
IS A JAPANESE FOLK TALE.
HIME ("PRINCESS") IS THE GENERIC
GIRL WORD, LIKE TARO IS FOR BOYS.



MORON!

WHAT DO YOU
THINK WOULD
HAPPEN TO YOU
AND THE BABY
IF YOU FELL
OVERT?

IT'S NOT JUST
YOU IN THERE
ANY MORE, YOU
KNOW...

KISS

HA HA
HA!

I GOT
YOU.

SHIORI!

SPIN

GRAB

THAT WAS
CLOSE











CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI
CHAPTER 5:
MEDDLING AT BON*

*FOOTNOTE: THE BON FESTIVAL IS ONE OF THE KEY BUDDHIST
HOLIDAYS IN JAPAN, HELD TO HONOR THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.







WHY ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT
ANCIENT HIS-
TORY LIKE THAT,
OLD MAN!

EVERY YEAR, WE'D
ENJOY LISTENING
TO THAT YOUNG
MAN'S STORIES.



AT THE TIME HE
TOOK OVER FROM
THE PREVIOUS
MEDICINE SELLER,
HE WAS STILL
QUITE A YOUNG MAN.

YOUR
PAPA
HERE

HAS BEEN
DELIVERING
MEDICINE TO
THIS FEELS-OLD
MAN FOR MORE
THAN TEN YEARS



AND THEN—
I GUESS IT
WAS JUST
LAST YEAR.

HE SUDDENLY
DIDN'T WANT
TO TALK ABOUT
HIMSELF...



ABOUT THE
GIRL HE LIKED,

OR HOW A
HEALTHY
YOUNG BOY
HAD BEEN
BORN .

OR ABOUT HOW
HE'D MARRIED
HER,

HA
HA
HA



WE FELT CERTAIN
SOMETHING SAD
HAD HAPPENED, SO
WE COULDN'T STOP
OURSELVES FROM
POKING OUR
NOSES IN...

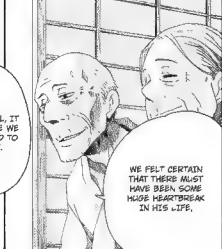


MEETING HIM SO OFTEN
OVER THE PAST TEN
YEARS, THE TRUTH IS
WE'D COME TO THINK OF
HIM MORE AS A SON THAN
AS JUST A MERCHANT.



AFTER ALL, HE
HAS SUCH A
CUTE KID LIKE
YOU WITH HIM...

BUT. WELL, IT
LOOKS LIKE WE
DON'T NEED TO
WORRY.



WE FELT CERTAIN
THAT THERE MUST
HAVE BEEN SOME
HUGE HEARTBREAK
IN HIS LIFE.



THEN,

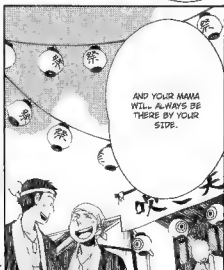
SO LONG AS
YOU'RE SUP-
PORTING HIM,

...HE'LL
BE FINE.



SHIRO,

YOU MAKE SURE
YOU TAKE GOOD
CARE OF YOUR
PAPA FROM HERE
ON OUT.



AND YOUR MAMA
WILL ALWAYS BE
THERE BY YOUR
SIDE.

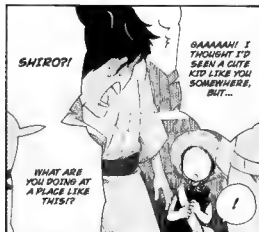




HOW IS IT,
THIS SWEET,
BUT LOFTY
FRAGRANCE?

THIS NECROMANTIC
INCENSE WILL BRING
BACK SPIRITS! AC-
CORDING TO LEGEND,
THIS FAMOUS INCENSE
IS SAID TO ALLOW YOU
TO SEE THE FORM OF A
DECEASED LOVED ONE
WHEN YOU LOOK INTO
ITS SMOKE!

OHO, MISS, YOU
LOOK LIKE YOU
DON'T BELIEVE
ME, ISN'T THAT
RIGHT?!



SHIRO?!

GAAAAAH! I
THOUGHT I'D
SEEN A CUTE
KID LIKE YOU
SOMEWHERE,
BUT...

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING AT
A PLACE LIKE
THIS?!



DON'T BE SO
SURPRISED THIS
INCENSE WAS THE
CREATION OF THAT
FAMOUS ONMYOJI,
ABE NO ..*

*FOOTNOTE: ABE NO SEIMEI WAS A FAMOUS ONMYOJI, OR DIVINER, ACTIVE IN LATE 10TH CENTURY JAPAN. AFTER HIS DEATH, MANY LEGENDS AROSE AROUND HIS LIFE, MAKING HIM SORT OF LIKE MERLIN IN ARTHURIAN MYTHOLOGY.



AH,
'SCUSE
ME.

THUMP



WHAT THE
HECK HAP-
PENED TO
YOUR DAD...?!







THOUGH THAT WAS WHEN I STILL HAD SOME MEAT ON ME

AND BACK BEFORE MY HAIRLINE STARTED RECEDING

SIGH

FOR REAL, THOUGH, THAT WAS QUITE A PAIN.

WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE KID, YOU USED TO MAKE ME RUN AROUND ALL OVER WITH YOU ON MY SHOULDERS. IT'S LIKE THAT ALL OVER AGAIN.



CLING

I'M BEGGING YOU! GET THIS KID OFFA ME!

MY BACK!



WHY DON'T YOU JUST POSE YOURSELF WITH SOME OF THAT CRAP MEDICINE YOU SELL, YOU QUACK!

YOUR BIG BROTHER'S BEIN' SERIOUS HERE!

YOU'RE A FRICKIN' MEDICINE-SELLER, AIN'T'CHA! JUST GIMME SOME GOOD MEDICINE OR SOMETHIN'!

SHUT IT!



LIKE I'D KNOW!

HEY, LATELY MY PILLOW'S BEEN STINKING LIKE SOME OLD MAN WAS LYING DOWN ON IT. YOU THINK I MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT SOMETHING? HEY...

*THEY WORK AT RIVAL STORES

SIGH: COLD MOON



GRAGHI!

MAN, THAT LOOKS GOOD, SHIRO! GIVE UNCA KANOE A BIT TOO, AHMM.

♡

SLAM



DAMN OLDER BROTHER.

... ANYWAY, YOU HEARD ME ASK WHAT YOU CAME FOR, DIDN'T'CHA?

ANYWAY I GET IT. YOU'RE JUST HERE BECAUSE BIG SIS ASKED YOU TO ...

SLURP
SLURP





THEY WERE TO
COME FIND SHIRO

SO FAR AS
SIS'S ORDERS,



WHY DIDN'T YOU
SAY ANYTHING
WHEN YOU LEFT
WITH SHIRO?



YOU'RE JUST
AFRAID TO
DENY HER
BECAUSE
SHE GIVES
YOU MONEY!

SHIRO!

YOU'RE HER
SERVANT..

IT'S TRUE THAT
I'M VERY LOYAL
TO SIS.



WE'VE BEEN
RAISING SHIRO
AS ONE OF OUR
OWN! WE TOLD
HIM YOU WERE
DEAD, SO DON'T
YOU DARE SHOW
YOUR FACE
AROUND HERE
AGAIN!

YOU ABAN-
DONED YOUR
OWN SON FOR
TWO WHOLE
YEARS, AND
NOW YOU
COME IN HERE
LIKE THIS. ?!



...!

THAT'S..





WHAT IF THAT
GETS WORSE
AGAIN?

HE HAS
PROBLEMS
WITH NIGHT
CRYING TOO,
RIGHT?

I MEAN, YOU'RE
NOT EVEN TAKING
A BREAK FOR BON.

OR WHAT IF
YOUR OWN
BODY GIVES
OUT BEFORE
THAT?

WHAT WILL YOU DO
IF SHIRO COMES
DOWN WITH SOME
BIG ILLNESS?



AH, BUT DON'T
MISUNDERSTAND.

—IS WHAT
SIS TOLD
ME TO SAY.

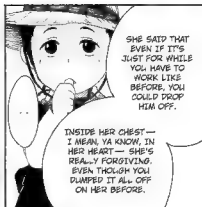
IT'S ONLY SHIRO
SHE'S THINKING
ABOUT, SHE SAID.

YAAAA?



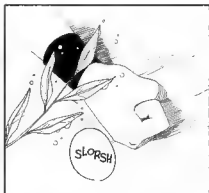
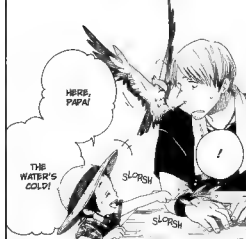
DON'T THINK
IT'S A BAD
IDEA, MYSELF

JUST COME
ON HOME AND
PEEK YOUR
FACE IN A BIT.



SHE SAID THAT
EVEN IF IT'S
JUST FOR WHILE
YOU HAVE TO
WORK LIKE
BEFORE, YOU
COULD DROP
HIM OFF.

INSIDE HER CHEST —
I MEAN, YA KNOW, IN
HER HEART — SHE'S
REALLY FORGIVING.
EVEN THOUGH YOU
DUMPED IT ALL OFF
ON HER BEFORE.





..HMM?

ANYWAY, IT'S A
BAD INFLUENCE ON
SHIRO, SO I DON'T
WANT YOU AROUND!



THAT STRONG ODOR AND
THE REASON YOU FEEL LIKE
YOUR BODY'S ALWAYS OUT
OF ENERGY IS ENTIRELY
BECAUSE OF THAT SMOKING.

IF YOU QUIT, YOU'LL
FEEL BETTER PRETTY
MUCH RIGHT AWAY
WELL, THAT'S IF YOU
COULD DO IT.



BYE!
BYE!

IT'S FINE. YOU
DON'T NEED TA HANG
AROUND WITH THAT
STINKY OLD GUY
ANYWAY!



LET'S GO,
SHIRO!

BUT LINCA
KANCE?

GRIIP!



WH—
YOU'RE KID-
DING, RIGHT?!
AND... THAT'S
WHAT YOU
MEANT BY "WHAT
YOU WERE
SAYING"?!

SEE YOU.
TAKE CARE.



WHY THIS,
ALL OF A
SUDDEN...?



CHICHIROGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

BE SURE YOU'RE
KIND TO YOUR
FATHER FROM
HERE ON OUT.

IT WAS VERY
SUDDEN THIS
MORNING .

CHAPTER 6:
A FATHER'S LOVE







THERE ISN'T ANY
SORT OF MEDICINE
THAT CAN MAKE YOU
BETTER AGAIN.

AND WHEN
YOU DIE,

YOU CAN'T WAKE
UP AGAIN. YOU
CAN'T TALK ANY
MORE.



DIED?

THAT'S
RIGHT.



YOU'RE NOT
ANYWHERE
ANY MORE...



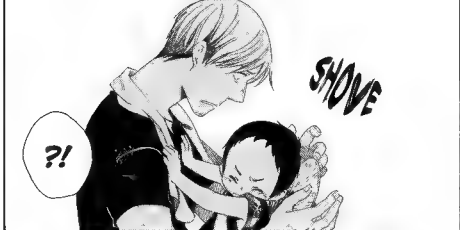
YOUR
MAMA...

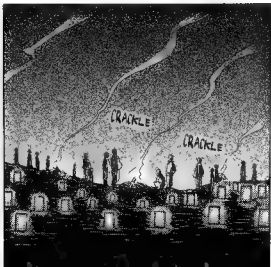
ANYTHING
THAT'S ALIVE
HAS TO DIE
ONE DAY.

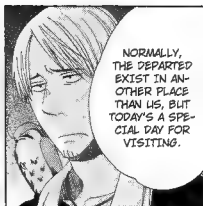


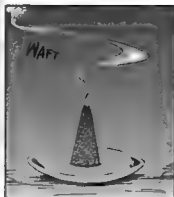
WHY...?

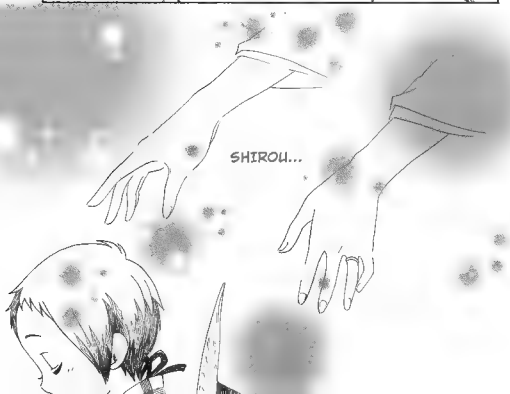




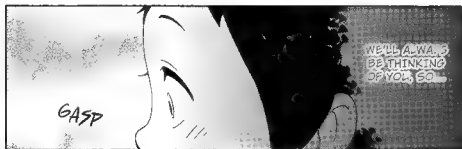














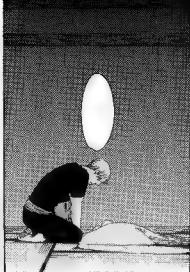
BACK
THEN.

I HAD A
DISCUSSION
WITH SHIORI.

HMM?

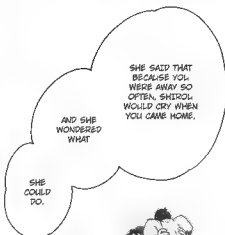


WHAT
DID YOU
DO TO
HIM...?



""
JL
AC

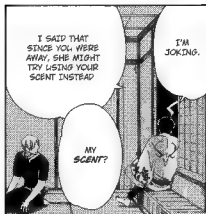
WELL, I TOLD HER,
SINCE YOU WERE MY
LITTLE BROTHER, WHY
DIDNT SHE JUST
CONSIDER ME AS A
NEW FATHER, INSTEAD
OF THINKING OF
HERSELF AS MY
SISTER-IN-LAW,
AND SHIROU AS
MY NEPHEW?



SHE SAID THAT
BECAUSE YOU
WERE AWAY SO
OFTEN, SHIROU
WOULD CRY WHEN
YOU CAME HOME.

AND SHE
WONDERED
WHAT

SHE
COULD
DO.



I SAID THAT
SINCE YOU WERE
AWAY, SHE MIGHT
TRY USING YOUR
SCENT INSTEAD

I'M
JOKING.

MY
SCENT?





WELL, TO BE
HONEST I MEANT
THAT AS A JOKE
TOO.

SHE USED IT
EVERY TIME SHE
ROCKED HIM.

BUT I GAVE HER SOME
CLOVES OR CINNAMON
OR SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT
AND SHE PUT THEM INTO
A LITTLE SCENT BAG. IT
SEEMED TO MAKE HER
HAPPY.



YEAH
YOU STINK
OF MEDICINE,
YOU KNOW?

REALLY?!



SO
WHenever
SHIROU
SMELLS IT,

HE'S BOUND TO
SEE MEMORIES
OF HIS MOTHER.



THE INGREDIENTS
IN THAT INCENSE I
USED EARLIER?
THEY'RE THE SAME
THINGS.



BUT WHY, ALL
OF A SUDDEN?

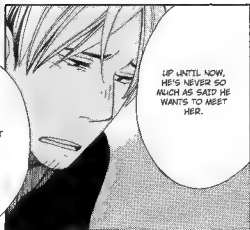


ANYWAY,

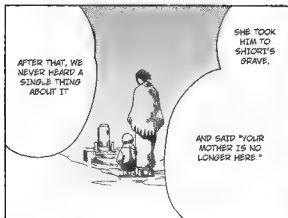
I'M SORRY IT
SEEMED TO MAKE
HIM THINK OF
SOMETHING BAD..



I WAS SURE HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT FOR SHIORI TO HAVE DIED .



UP UNTIL NOW, HE'S NEVER SO MUCH AS SAID HE WANTS TO MEET HER.



AFTER THAT, WE NEVER HEARD A SINGLE THING ABOUT IT

SHE TOOK HIM TO SHIORI'S GRAVE,

AND SAID "YOUR MOTHER IS NO LONGER HERE."



IT WAS THE SAME WITH BIG SIS.

WHAT .?

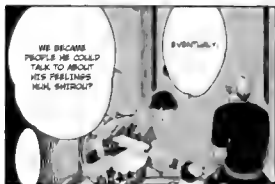


THAT HIS MAMA ISN'T IN THIS WORLD ANY LONGER. .

HE KNOWS.



SHIROU UNDERSTANDS, RIGHT...?





AS HIS FATHER,
ARE THE ONLY
PERSON IN THIS
WORLD SHIROU
CAN RELY ON
TOTALLY.

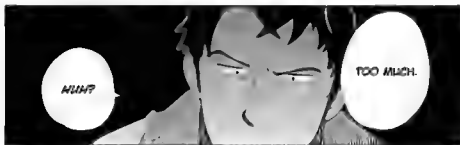
IT GOES
WITHOUT SAYING
THAT YOU,



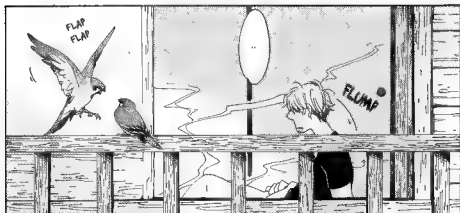
THUD

HE'S
TRYIN' TO
GIVE YOU...

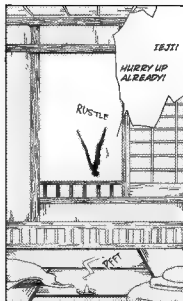
BUT SINCE
YOU'RE HIS
DAD, HE
DOESN'T WANNA
MAKE YOU
THINK ABOUT
STUFF LIKE
THAT, YA KNOW?













ACTING LIKE
HE'S A LOST
CHILD.



AND HE...

EVEN
THOUGH I
DON'T HAVE
ANYONE BUT
HIM.



DOESN'T
HAVE ANYONE
BUT ME...!







?!
SO—

HE WAS SO TIRED
FROM YESTERDAY HE'S
STILL SLEEPING.



HE MIGHT HAPTA
BE AWAY A BIT
FOR WORK.



I'M...
SORRY...

UHHHH-

HIC

I
WON'T...

SO...

TO
PAPA...

SAY...

SELFISH
STUFF... WAAH.

HIC



HUH?

SHIO...

ISN'T A
GOOD
KID...?



SHIO SAID
SOMETHING
SELFISH.

SO PAPA'S
TIRED...?

PRIP

PRIP





**NEED A HUG,
YOU COME TO
PAPA, ANY
TIME!**

**WHENEVER
YOU**

**AND HOLD
MY HAND
WHENEVER
YOU WANT!**

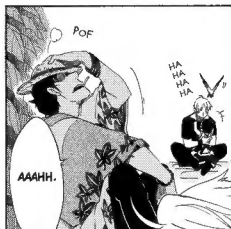
...HUH!

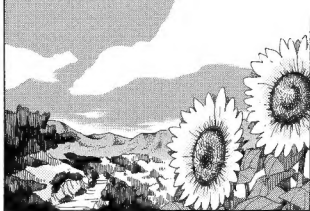
OKAY?!

**ANY TIME
YOU'RE SAD
AND NEED TO
CRY, YOU
CAN COME
TO ME!**











HE SAID IF WE
HAVE IT, PAPA
AND SHIO WILL
ALWAYS BE
TOGETHER!

END